

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U. S. Coast Guard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USCGC RELIANCE RETURNS TO HOMEPORT

Kittery, ME – U.S. Coast Guard Cutter RELIANCE and its 70-member crew returned to their homeport at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va., Tuesday, following a six-week patrol in the waters of the Florida Straits.

The 210-foot long RELIANCE was tasked with securing our maritime border between the Florida Keys and Cuba.

The Florida Straits are well known for illegal migrant smuggling, so RELIANCE focused on enforcing immigration and customs laws. During the patrol RELIANCE served as a holding platform for Cuban migrants found at sea. The crew of the RELIANCE processed and cared for more than 150 migrants while they awaited official disposition. RELIANCE interdicted four migrant vessels and one “go-fast” vessel with two smugglers onboard. Additionally, RELIANCE’s law-enforcement teams conducted at-sea boardings to enforce customs laws, resulting in one violation with potential fines of up to \$250,000.

During their patrol the crew of the RELIANCE enjoyed visiting Cozumel, Mexico, and Key West, Florida.

“The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multi-mission service within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to protecting the safety and security of America.”.

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